

December 5, 2016

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful having time to meet with you during conferences at the end of last month. I am looking forward to a busy month of December with my class.

Academic News

Reader's Workshop: Students will continue meeting in guided reading groups. They will be practicing "just right" books during Read to Self and Partner Reading. Students will continue to read nonfiction and I will use mini lessons from the Teaching Reading Unit that explores Reading Nonfiction.

Writer's Workshop: Students have started writing "teaching books". Students are using a checklist to help with the planning and revision of their teaching books.

Math: Students will be learning about measurement this month as well as continuing practice of addition and subtraction problems. Please review the EDM Unit 4 family letter that was sent home last Monday. After each unit, based on the assessment, your child is given a standard grade. Twice a year grades will be given in four Domains. Domains are larger groups of related standards. Below is an overview I found on : http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_Math%20Standards.pdf .

1. Operations and algebraic thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction.

- Add and subtract within 20.
- Work with addition and subtraction equations.

2. Number and operations in Base ten

- Extend the counting sequence.
- Understand place value.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.

3. Measurement and data

- measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.
- tell and write time.
- represent and interpret data.

4. Geometry

reason with shapes and their attributes.

Social Studies: The focus for the next few months will be on Cultural Traditions. We will explore holidays around the world including Hanukkah, Christmas, and Chinese New Year. While visiting each country children will learn about traditions and symbols of the holiday. This month the children are learning about Hanukkah and Christmas. **Please return the “How I Celebrate...” paper by December 12th. Thank you!**

Science: The students enjoyed learning about the Solar System. I hope your child shared about the “visiting” planetarium.

The learning targets for the Earth and Space Science Unit were:

- * Observe and describe changes in the Earth and sky, such as phases of the moon.
- * Identify the sun, moon, stars, and planets; for example, describe how we see them change.

Later this month, under the guidance of Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Dupre, first graders will be participating in a 3, 2, 1 Maker Space challenge of building a rocket or vehicle that could take them to a planet or help them drive on the planet. They have to use 3 caps, 2 tongue depressors, and 1 paper towel tube. They should be able to talk about it and how it is fueled. It cannot be bigger than their arm. It sounds like a fun challenge for all!

Other

Holiday/Winter Celebration Party: We will be having a classroom party on Thursday, December 22nd from 11:15-12:15. Please look for a sign up genius soon!

No School Days: No school on Friday, the 23rd or the week of the 26th.

Wishing you the best,
Julie